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C Afternoon session Four Foreigners devoted almost entirely to discussion

SAE of (a) Joint communique; (b) Agreed minute, instruction to Working Group;

INR (c) Report to NAC on Western Position on European security, German

H (d) Report to NAC on Contingency Planning.

PX PX Communique largely non-substantive. Working Group to receive in

London April 13, draft report by April 25 for consideration by Four Foreigners
in Paris April 29.

No minute British sought unsuccessfully to leave open possibility
that security measures need not be linked to German reunification.

Compromise language was agreed with maintained link. French indicated
had not made up minds on concept of special security area which they felt
too much like Rapacki Plans. Germans objected to para. which disconnected

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Transcribed and
checked against original

O - O. Frederick Reinhardt

EUN/GER - Martin J. Hillenbrand

S/S-RO - Mr. Dunnigan

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(originally proposed by French) suggested Working Group study application of limitations of protocols to Brussels Treaty to reunified Germany. Para. was dropped. Germans had no objection to discussion this question by Working Group but did not want it mentioned in minute. Couve said linking of discussion general disarmament and German reunification made Western package proposal less negotiable. Subjects might be discussed simultaneously but should not be linked. Acting Secretary pointed out link partly based on fact that if USSR agreed to principle of reunification more rapid progress on general disarmament would be possible.

Lengthy discussion of proposed Report to NAC on Western Position resulted in ~~ministerial~~ (to be ~~agreed~~) ~~presented~~ April 2). agreed text presented orally by Lloyd ~~on April 2~~ / Problem largely one of specific language and of how much to tell NATO. At one point, however, Lloyd suggested possibility be considered of putting forward Stage I of reunification plan alone if Russians rejected remainder. Suggestion opposed by 3 other Ministers. Lloyd agreed we should put package forward as first position. Wanted only to know what West would do if Russians reject package, as he felt likely. Couve objected to giving NATO any fall-back positions at this time because of danger of leaks. Did not exclude consideration of fall-backs later, principally in return for concessions on Berlin. Germans objected to anything limited to Stage I which did not contain timetable specifying when next Stage to take effect.

Discussion of question Italian participation being reported separate cable.

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